

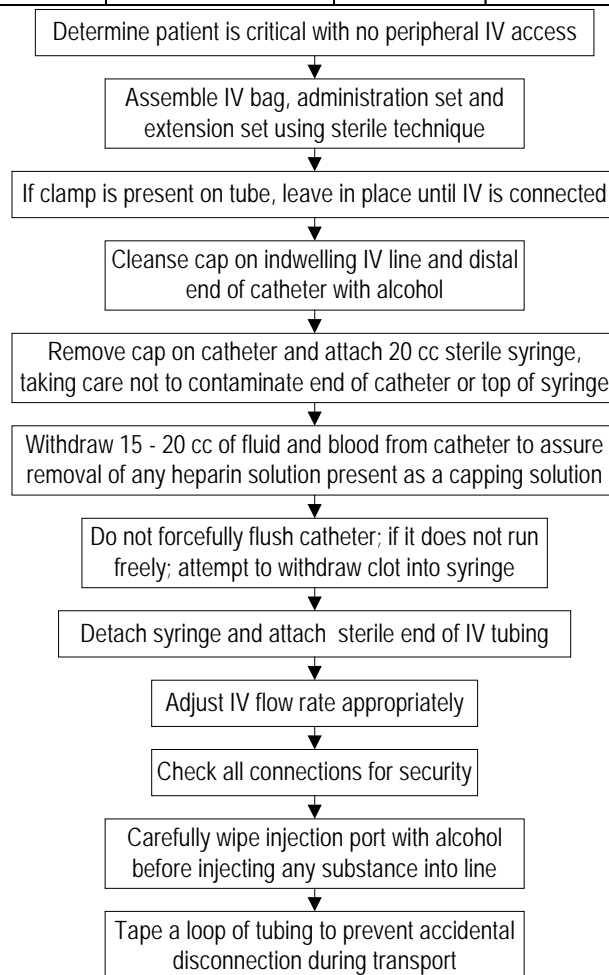
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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
PRACTICAL SKILL  
USE OF CENTRAL**

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Signature:
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**INDWELLING INTRAVENOUS LINES**

<b>Purpose:</b> To utilize an existing central line for administration of intravenous fluids and medications		<b>Indications:</b> May be used in immediate life threatening situations when another site cannot be accessed	
<b>Advantages:</b> Readily available IV access into central circulation Route for administration of medication and fluids	<b>Disadvantages:</b> None	<b>Complications:</b> Air embolus Clot formation at end of catheter Heparin overdose if not removed Irritation of heart end of catheter Infection/sepsis	<b>Contraindications:</b> Available peripheral IV site Inability to withdraw fluid from catheter Lack of external catheter site



**NOTES:**

- A dialysis shunt may ONLY be used when the patient is in cardiorespiratory arrest and no peripheral IV site is available. Consider enlisting the expertise of the dialysis nurse, if present.
- Carefully monitor the flow rate of the IV line, as most indwelling catheters have large lumen.
- Air emboli may be drawn in when the patient inhales while the catheter tip is open to the atmosphere.
- Patient may receive a heparin overdose if the solution is not removed prior to starting IV fluid.